United Nations A/C.1/58/PV.18

General Assembly
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Official Records

First Committee
18th meeting
Wednesday, 29 October 2003, 10 a.m.
New York

Chairman: Mr. Sareva ..... (Finland)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda items 62 to 80 (*continued*)

Action on all draft resolutions and decisions submitted under disarmament and international security agenda items

The Chairman: The Committee will continue to take action on draft resolutions that appear in informal working paper No. 3, which was circulated during the last meeting of the Committee, starting with cluster 6, "Confidence-building measures, including transparency in armaments".

After completing action on draft decision A/C.1/58/L.48, contained in cluster 6, the Committee will proceed to take action on draft resolutions contained in cluster 7, "Disarmament machinery", with draft resolutions A/C.1/58/L.7, A/C.1/58/L.20 and A/C.1/58/L.21, followed by draft resolutions A/C.1/58/L.3, A/C.1/58/L.24, draft decision A/C.1/58/L.29, draft resolutions A/C.1/58/L.33 and A/C.1/58/L.35 in cluster 8, draft decision A/C.1/58/L.17 in cluster 9 and, finally, draft decision A/C.1/58/L.30 and draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.42 in cluster 10.

Before the Committee proceeds to take a decision on the draft decision contained in cluster 6, "Confidence-building measures, including transparency in armaments", as appears in informal working paper No. 3, I shall give the floor to those delegations wishing to make a general statement other than explanations of vote or to introduce revised draft resolutions.

Mr. Heinsberg (Germany): I would like to make a statement on the draft decision contained in document A/C.1/58/L.48, "Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification".

Germany attaches particular importance to the decision that we are about to take. It addresses a key aspect of the issue of compliance with existing multilateral treaties. Committed efforts are required to strengthen existing verification regimes with a view to enhancing the detectability of significant violations. In particular, we must place greater emphasis on non-routine inspections in order to respond effectively and swiftly to concerns regarding non-compliance and to ensure that no illicit activity takes place outside non-declared facilities. Such inspections should be considered as a matter of right and routine and be stripped of their implied excusing of non-compliance. We also suggest the review of existing verification regimes with a view to identifying gaps and, where necessary, promoting the establishment of additional verification instruments.

Finally, we support the retention of the verification and inspection expertise of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission in order to enhance the expertise and capacity of the Security Council, which is the final arbiter on the consequences of non-compliance in meeting the challenge of proliferation.

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We are looking forward to a substantial debate on these and other issues at next year's session of the First Committee.

The Chairman: The Committee will now proceed to take a decision on draft decision A/C.1/58/L.48, contained in cluster 6, "Confidence-building measures, including transparency in armaments".

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Sattar (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will proceed to take a decision on the draft decision contained in document A/C.1/58/L.48, entitled "Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification". The draft decision was introduced by the representative of Canada at the 14th meeting on 23 October 2003.

The Chairman: The sponsors of the draft decision have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft decision A/C.1/58/L.48 was adopted.

The Chairman: The Committee will now proceed to take action on three draft resolutions under cluster 7, "Disarmament machinery". The draft resolutions are A/C.1/58/L.7, A/C.1/58/L.20 and A/C.1/58/L.21. We will use the procedure that we have had in place since Monday.

I shall first give the floor to those delegations wishing to make a general statement other than explanations of vote or decision.

I call on the representative of Italy, who will speak on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. Trezza (Italy): I am pleased to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) on draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.20, entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission". The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Malta, Slovakia and Slovenia align themselves with this general statement. The associated countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries Norway and Iceland, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

The EU attaches special importance to the work of the Disarmament Commission. It is an important deliberative body aimed at promoting fruitful, multilateral dialogue in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. Its inability to make progress this year, at the end of a three-year consideration of the two items on its agenda, was particularly disappointing. Next month's organizational meeting will see the start of discussions on items for its consideration in the period 2004-2007. In our view, it should adopt a more constructive and realistic approach to its next phase of work.

The EU reaffirms its commitment to a successful outcome of the Disarmament Commission's work and to every possible effort to promote topical, concrete and useful recommendations. That is the reason why the EU supports draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.20.

The Chairman: I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Sattar (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will proceed to take a decision on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/58/L.7, entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Costa Rica, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, at the 14th meeting on 23 October 2003.

In this connection, I would like to draw members' attention to a programme budget implication to this draft resolution, which is contained in document A/C.1/58/L.55.

The Chairman: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.7 was adopted.

The Chairman: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.20.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Sattar (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will proceed to take a decision on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/58/L.20,

entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Nepal at the 15th meeting on 24 October 2003.

The Chairman: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.20 was adopted.

The Chairman: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.21.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Sattar (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will proceed to take a decision on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/58/L.21, entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Nepal at the 14th meeting on 23 October 2003, with the following oral revisions.

In the fifth preambular paragraph, the words "in Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan, from 25 to 28 September 2002," would be inserted before the words "on Jeju Island".

In the fifth line of the seventh preambular paragraph, the redundant "a" would be deleted before the words "an informal consultation".

The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in document A/C.1/58/L.21 and in document A/C.1/58/INF/2. In addition, Samoa has also become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

I would like to draw the Committee's attention to a programme budget implication in connection with the draft resolution, which is contained in document A/C.1/58/L.57.

The Chairman: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.21 was adopted, as orally revised.

The Chairman: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote on the draft resolutions just adopted.

Mr. McGinnis (United States of America): I would like to provide an explanation of vote on draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.20, entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

The United States is mindful of the potential contribution of the Disarmament Commission to international peace and security and so joined consensus on draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.20. However, our delegation is disappointed that the Commission failed this year, after several years of work, to produce agreed conclusions on either of the two important topics under discussion.

If the Disarmament Commission is to break away from this futility, we believe that it must start to address topics that are both relevant to current security concerns and sufficiently focused to bring delegations together in a constructive and cooperative manner. Our delegation hopes that the organizational meeting next month will identify realistic, focused and relevant issues for the Commission to address during its next three-year cycle.

Ms. Pollack (Canada): Canada, too, has asked for the floor to give an explanation of vote on draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.20, "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

Over the course of the First Committee's sessions, Canada has consistently reiterated its expectation that the international instruments available to us for consideration of disarmament issues will be used to better effect. In that context, others, too — including the Non-Aligned Movement — have called for the revitalization of the Disarmament Commission. Properly utilized, the Commission has proven itself capable of producing substantive and valuable contributions to the disarmament discourse, including, for example, the 16 verification principles. There is no real reason why it cannot make similar such contributions in the future.

Canada is deeply disappointed — as are the European Union and the United States — with the performance of the Commission during the last three years, in particular its failure to agree on a substantive report that could be endorsed by this Committee. We are also concerned that the First Committee has

adopted a draft resolution that recommends consideration by the Disarmament Commission of substantive disarmament items, but that no items were discussed or included in the draft resolution. Additionally, this Committee has adopted a draft resolution that requests the Disarmament Commission to meet in 2004, with a concomitant financial cost that must be assumed for United Nations services, although we have not agreed on whether or not the Commission ill have work to do at that time.

Canada remains hopeful that we can capitalize on the opportunities afforded by the Disarmament Commission to further the discussion on key disarmament issues. To do so, we must first collectively identify issues for constructive exchange during the coming session of the Commission. We encourage all delegations to reflect in the weeks ahead on how to ensure that the new session of the Disarmament Commission is effective and to convey their ideas to its Bureau.

The Chairman: We have now concluded our consideration of cluster 7, "Disarmament machinery", for today. We shall proceed to consider documents under cluster 8, "Other disarmament measures". These documents are A/C.1/58/L.3, A/C.1/58/L.24, A/C.1/58/L.29 — which is a draft decision — A/C.1/58/L.33 and A/C.1/58/L.35.

We will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.3.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Sattar (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will proceed to take a decision on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/58/L.3, entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of the Russian Federation at the 14th meeting on 23 October 2003.

In this connection, I wish, on behalf of the Secretary-General, to put on record the following statement on financial implications.

By operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.3, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General

> "to consider existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them, and to conduct a study on the concepts referred to in paragraph 2 of the present resolution, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts, to be established in 2004, appointed by him on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and with the help of Member States in a position to render such assistance, and to submit a report on the outcome of the study to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session".

Provisions have been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 that would enable the Department for Disarmament Affairs to provide appropriate services to three sessions of the panel of governmental experts, to be held in New York. Therefore, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.3, no additional requirements would be needed in the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

The Chairman: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.3 was adopted.

The Chairman: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.24.

A recorded vote has been requested. I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Mr. Sattar (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will proceed to take action on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/58/L.24, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Malaysia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Non-Aligned Movement, at the 14th meeting on 23 October 2003. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/58/L.24 and A/C.1/58/INF/2*.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain,

Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey.

Draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.24 was adopted by 110 votes to 3, with 42 abstentions.

The Chairman: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft decision A/C.1/58/L.29.

A recorded vote has been requested. I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Mr. Sattar (Secretary of the Committee): **The Committee will now proceed to take action on the draft decision contained in document A/C.1/58/L.29, entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development".**

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern

Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

France, Israel.

Draft decision A/C.1/58/L.29 was adopted by 157 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions.

The Chairman: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.33.

A recorded vote has been requested. I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee to conduct the voting.

Mr. Sattar (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will proceed to take action on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/58/L.33, entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of India at the 14th meeting on 23 October 2003. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/58/L.33 and A/C.1/58/INF/2*. In addition, Guyana and Myanmar have also become sponsors of the draft resolution.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Benin, Brazil, Japan, Kazakhstan, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Ukraine, Uruguay.

Draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.33 was adopted by 94 votes to 47, with 18 abstentions.

The Chairman: The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.35.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Sattar (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will proceed to take a decision on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/58/L.35, entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of India at the 12th meeting on 21 October 2003. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/58/L.35, A/C.1/58/INF/2* and A/C.1/58/INF/2/Add.1. In addition, France has also become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

The Chairman: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.35 was adopted.

The Chairman: I now call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote or position on the draft resolutions just adopted.

Mr. Durrani (Pakistan): I have taken the floor to explain Pakistan's position on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/58/L.35.

Pakistan supports the objectives of the draft resolution to the effect that, in view of the enormity and sophistication of the threats posed by terrorism, there is an urgent need to ensure that weapons of mass destruction do not fall into the hands of terrorists, for such an eventuality would have catastrophic consequences. The nature and complexity of that threat warrant a multi-pronged response. My delegation believes that the surest way to eliminate the threat is through the complete elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons.

Member States are fully cognizant of the fact that chemical and biological weapons pose a more immediate threat in view of the availability of their precursors and agents and the relatively easy processes involved in the manufacture of such weapons and their transportation. That fact has been borne out by the scientific community. There is therefore an urgent need to address those issues through full compliance and for the strengthening of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and their verification and inspection regimes.

While we fully agree with the objectives of the draft resolution, there is also a need to address the underlying causes of terrorism, which lie in suppression, injustice and deprivation. The declaration of the thirteenth summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, adopted in Kuala Lumpur earlier this year, explicitly calls upon the international community to address that issue in right earnest. We hope that, in future, all those aspects will be taken into account by the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Mr. McGinnis (United States of America): I have asked for the floor to provide two explanations of vote. The first is on draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.29, "Relationship between disarmament and development". With respect to the decision to include the item "Relationship between disarmament and development" in next year's agenda for the Committee, we have believed and continue to believe that disarmament and development are two distinct issues that do not lend themselves to being linked. It was for that reason that the United States did not participate in the 1987 Conference on that matter. Accordingly, the United States does not and will not consider itself bound by the declaration in the Final Document of that Conference.

Secondly, the United States gladly joined the consensus adoption of draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.35, "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction". That important draft resolution recognizes the urgent threat to international peace and security posed by the prospect that weapons of mass destruction could fall into the hands of terrorists, the world's most dangerous people.

In 2002, resolution 57/83 — which, for the first time, focused the First Committee's attention on the weapons of mass destruction/terrorist nexus — requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to seek the views of Member States on

> "measures for tackling the global threat posed by terrorists acquiring weapons of mass destruction" (*resolution 57/83, para. 4*)

and to compile them into a report to the General Assembly at this session. The United States was pleased by the response of Member States to the Secretary-General's invitation to provide national views, as contained in document A/58/208 and its addendums.

This year's draft resolution, contained in document A/C.1/58/L.35, again requests the Secretary-General to seek Member States' views on ways to deal with the weapons of mass destruction/terrorist threat and we would encourage all delegations to share their ideas and accomplishments in that area.

Draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.35 helpfully acknowledges the necessity for concerted national,

regional and international efforts to confront the weapons of mass destruction/terrorist threat. As Assistant Secretary Rademaker said to our body on October 7,

> "Unfortunately, as we have all come to learn, no civilized nation is immune from the barbarity of terrorism". (*A/C.1/58/PV.3, p. 5*)

The United States believes that both draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.35 and its predecessor send a positive sign that the First Committee is prepared to respond to that threat to the peace in a serious way and on a consensus basis.

Mr. Bar (Israel): I have asked for the floor in order to give an explanation of position on draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.35, entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction".

I would like to congratulate India for its initiative to present a draft resolution on measures prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. Over the past few years, terrorism has brought about the deaths of thousands of innocent victims. Among all forms of terrorism, suicide terrorism has proved to be a strategic tool in the hands of those interested in preventing coexistence, reconciliation and peace.

The danger posed by terrorism is doubled by the proliferation activities of States supporting terrorism. When these States continue in their efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction and to proliferate them, the risk to global and regional and stability is unacceptable and requires an urgent response. In this context, we are encouraged by the growing awareness of this alarming problem, as reflected in several concrete initiatives. We also want to welcome the recent initiative of some members of the Conference on Disarmament and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research to hold a seminar in Geneva on weapons of mass destruction terrorism.

The struggle against terrorism and its supporters demands international efforts to stop the illicit trafficking of arms and explosives. Efforts to curb the proliferation of technology and dually used items related to weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles are equally important. The proliferation of such items should not be accepted or treated lightly, especially when it involves States or non-State actors that help and support terrorism.

The linkage between terrorism and proliferation is very dangerous. We call on all States to refrain from any transfer of nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological weapons or related items to terrorist groups, and to ensure that their territory is not used as a platform for the transfer of items related to weapons of mass destruction and technology to terrorists or to those who may retransfer them to terrorists.

Mr. Vasiliev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): I have asked for the floor to explain Russia's position on draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.35.

Russia believes that the problem of preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is both urgent and important. In his statement before the General Assembly at this session, President Putin emphasized that

> "The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems remains a serious challenge to the modern world. The most dangerous challenge is the possibility of their falling into the hands of terrorists." (*A/58/PV.11, p. 6*)

We feel that the way to eliminate those threats is through the further universalization of the existing non-proliferation regimes, the strengthening of international verification instruments, the introduction of safe technologies in nuclear production and the nuclear-power industry, and the abandonment by States of superfluous arsenals and military programmes that may upset the military-political balance and provoke an arms race. In that connection, we supported the consensus on the draft resolution entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction", contained in document A/C.1/58/L.35.

We are also convinced of the fact that the problem of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including the prevention of such weapons falling into the hands of terrorists, must be resolved not only in the General Assembly, but also in the Security Council through the drafting of relevant resolutions.

Mr. Duarte (Brazil): I just want to make a brief explanation of position by saying that we believe that the adoption by consensus of draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.35 shows the importance that the entire international community attributes to the adoption of measures in several fields to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. We believe, as

do all nations — as has been demonstrated — that this is a very important and urgent problem.

We would like simply to register the fact that Brazil believes that the best way to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction is the total elimination of such weapons, including nuclear weapons. That is why we attribute so much importance to expediting the process of disarmament in all fields, especially in the field of weapons of mass destruction.

The Chairman: The Committee will now proceed to take action on the draft decision under cluster 9, "Related matters of disarmament and international security". The draft decision is contained in document A/C.1/58/L.17.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Sattar (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will proceed to take a decision on the draft decision contained in document A/C.1/58/L.17, entitled "Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures". The draft decision was introduced by the representative of Germany at the 14th meeting on 23 October 2003. The sponsors of the draft decision are listed in document A/C.1/58/INF/2*.

The Chairman: The sponsors of the draft decision have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft decision A/C.1/58/L.17 was adopted.

The Chairman: The Committee will now proceed to consider the draft decision and the draft resolution under cluster 10, "International security".

The Committee will first take action on the draft decision contained in document A/C.1/58/L.30.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Sattar (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will proceed to take a decision on the draft decision contained in document A/C.1/58/L.30, entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security". The draft decision was introduced by the representative of Malaysia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Non-Aligned Movement, at the 14th meeting on 23 October 2003.

The Chairman: The sponsors of the draft decision have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft decision A/C.1/58/L.30 was adopted.

The Chairman: The Committee will now proceed to take action on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/58/L.42.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Sattar (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will proceed to take a decision on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/58/L.42, entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Algeria at the 15th meeting on 24 October 2003. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/58/L.42 and A/C.1/58/INF/2*. In addition, the following States have also become sponsors of the draft resolution: Estonia, France, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia.

The Chairman: The sponsors of the draft resolution have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.42 was adopted.

The Chairman: I should like to inform members that, at its next meeting, the Committee will continue to take action on the draft resolutions contained in informal working paper No. 4, which is being distributed to the Committee. The draft resolutions that the Committee will act upon at its next meeting are as follows: A/C.1/58/L.53, A/C.1/58/L.43, A/C.1/58/L.28 and A/C.1/58/L.16/Rev.1.

I would like to draw the attention of representatives to the fact that, in document A/C.1/58/L.59, which has been issued today, the Secretary-General has submitted a statement in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly as regards the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.28, "United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament".

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.